

# Selectmen Choose 'Wright' Tenants

Archives, Student Union get space

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Selectmen voted 2 to 1 in favor of having a student union occupy the entire rear portion of the Wright Building, shutting the door on the Recreation Department's desire to move to a new location.

Selectmen Chairman Andre Martecchini and Selectman John Tuffy supported an architect's plan to have the Duxbury Student

Union use over 6,000 square feet of the 1967 rear addition to the historic Wright building on St. George St. Selectman Betsy Sullivan felt that the Recreation Department should occupy about 1,200-square-feet of this area and she cast the dissenting vote, stating she wasn't voting against the Student Union, but for a new home for the Recreation Department.

continued on page 19

continued from page one

All three selectmen approved of a town archive managed and supported by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society to be housed in the 1907 section of the former library building.

Martecchini said it is their goal to have a "really good cost estimate" to bring to Town Meeting in March, although actual bidding plans won't be ready by then.

He said he favored giving the whole rear portion of the building to the Student Union group so they have a good chance at succeeding and also to keep middle school students separated from high school students.

"My feeling is that if we're going to do this, then we should give them our best shot," Martecchini said.

Sullivan agreed that housing the Student Union in the building was a "worthwhile project" that deserved the selectmen's support. However, she felt that housing the Recreation Department in the same building would be beneficial to the Student Union

as well as move the department closer to the fields and services they provide. The Recreation Department has had four homes in three years, she said.

"We're not talking all or nothing here," Sullivan said. "We're talking the difference of 1,000 square feet."

Sullivan also supported the installation of a second chair lift in the back portion of the building so there could be handicapped access from the basement to the rear of the building.

"It would be foolhardy at this time not to plan for future use," Sullivan said. "If we've learned anything as a town, it's that our configuration changes and we should incorporate that second lift. This is an opportunity we have. We have the funds available. Let's make this building as flexible for

the future as we can."

Tuffy also supported adding the chair lift, although it did take away space from the Student Union Area.

The student union plans to have separate activities and study areas for high and middle school students. They plan to have a café and performance space, a game room with billiards, ping pong and foosball, a video game room and tutoring and support areas as well as a high school lounge and study space.

The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society will use its area to house an archive and photo storage, a reading room, an art display and museum quality storage to preserve its and the town's historical information and artifacts.